

Cypripedium acaule:

Family: *Orchidaceae* (or-kid-AY-see-ee)

Genus: *Cypripedium* (sip-rih-PEE-dee-um)

Species: *acaule* (a-KAW-lee)

Common name: *Pink Lady Slipper, Stemless Lady slipper, Moccasin Flower*

Existing on a variety of soils compositions, from peat, sand, clay, swamp forests and sphagnum bogs. Requires very acidic soils (PH 4.5-4.0) are typical, with some plants even thriving at (PH 3.5). In the far north, tolerates full sun, to high dappled shade in the southern ranges. Commonly associated with white pines but can also be found in hardwood forests.

Recommended soil mix: *40% sphagnum peat moss + 40% quart sand + 20% white pine forest duff. By volume, this would read as 4 parts sphagnum peat moss, by 4 parts quartz sand, by 2 parts white pine forest duff. The sphagnum peat moss is the dried compressed bale type, available at your local garden centers.*

CEC=med-moderate.

Fertilization: *None required – not recommended*

Water: *One of the few cypripediums that we recommend rain water or DI water. Acidify the water to PH 4.0 on every third watering. If you do not have a PH meter, you can add two tablespoons of vinegar to each gallon of water and have good success. Water thoroughly, with a drenching soak. If plants are naturalized in an outdoor setting and receive ample moisture from rains, make sure that you still apply the acid water treatment once every three to four weeks through out the growing season. Apply your first acid water treatment early in the spring, just after the snow disappears for the season, before the new buds emerge from the soil. The melting snow pack, and spring rains will affect your PH levels and need to be adjusted. This early season acid treatment is important! Your last acid treatment should be 4 weeks after the plants have gone dormant in late fall. Here in Michigan, that is last week in November.*

Insect control: *Orthene when required.*

Fungus control: Typically not a problem, the acidic soil conditions are protective against a large number of parasitic fungi, parasitic bacteria, and soil born disease.

Slugs: Commercial slug bait.

Overwintering: Protect dormant eyes and buds from mice, voles, and squirrels. Hardware cloth may be used; remove early in spring as this is one of the first cypripediums to break dormancy.